Attorney Docket NO. I/2000.552 US

In the Specification

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 9, line 11.

The BVDV CP7 full-length cDNA clones described here were constructed on the basis of pA/BVDV (see reference above) and the subgenomic cDNA clone HHDI9 (described in detail by Tautz et al., J. Virol. 73, 9422-9432) which contains a NheI-site and an SP6 RNA polymerase promoter immediately upstream of the viral cDNA. HHDI9 lacks the genomic region encoding the structural proteins as well as p7 and NS2; the 5′ terminal 21 bases and the 3′ terminal 33 bases of HHDI9 were derived from the BVDV Osloss sequence. An XhoI (nt 222-227 of the CP7-5A sequence)/ ClaI (nt 11075-11080 of the CP7-5A sequence) fragment from pA/BVDV was inserted in plasmid HHDI9 predigested with XhoI and ClaI, resulting in the plasmid pCP7-Os. For construction of CP7 full-length cDNA clones carrying the authentic 5′ terminus and 9, 20, and 26 A residues downstream of position 44, the respective cDNA clones obtained after RNA ligation/RT-PCR were used as templates for PCR with Ol 200R (corresponding to nt 235-252 of the CP7-5A sequence) and Ol CP7-SP6 (SEQ ID NO:1) 5′-TACGCTAGCATTTAGGTGACACTATAGTATACGAGGTTAGGCAAGTTC-3′; the underlined region corresponds to nt 1-22 of the CP7-5A sequence; an SP6 RNA polymerase promoter preceded by a NheI-site is located directly upstream of the CP7-specific sequence). Finally, the NheI/XhoI fragment of pCP7-Os was replaced by the CP7-specific NheI/XhoI fragments carrying 9, 20, and 26 A residues following position 44, resulting in the full-length cDNA clones pCP7-9A, pCP7-20A, and pCP7-26A.

internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

16. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim a, wherein said growth-restricted phenotype is characterised by a small plaque size phenotype.

17. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 15, wherein the mutant comprises more than one mutation in the stem loops 1a and/or 1b.

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18. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 15, wherein the one or more mutations is a deletion of one or more nucleotides.

19. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 15, wherein the one or more mutations is a deletion of stem loop 1a.

20. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 18, wherein the one or more mutations is a deletion of stem loop 1a and a deletion in stem loop 1b.

21. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 18, wherein the mutation is a deletion of stem loops 1a and 1b, and wherein the nucleotide sequence after said deletion at the 5' end of the genome is GUAUAU or GUAUCCU.

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Attorney Docket NO. I/2000.552 US

22. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 18, wherein the loop portion of stem loop 1b contains five adenosine (A) residues.

23. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 15, wherein the pestivirus is bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV).

B6 concld.

24. (Amended) The isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 23, wherein the pestivirus is BVDV-1 or BVDV-2.

B7

35. (Amended) A vaccine, comprising:

an immunogenically active isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 15 and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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40. (Amended) A vaccine, comprising:

an immunogenically effective dosage of the isolated pestivirus mutant of claim 15, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and diluent.

REMARKS

The pending claims of the instant application are 15-47. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 25-34 from consideration as being drawn non-elected inventions. The Examiner has examined claims 15-24 and 35-47. Applicants acknowledge that the restriction requirement has been made final.

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